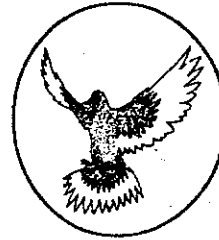


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Filner Announces Million Dollar Grant For Head Start Program

Congressman Bob Filner announced that the Head Start program, based in Brawley, California will receive a grant of \$1,004,368 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to stimulate programs in Imperial Valley that prepare children to be ready to learn when they start formal schooling.

"Education is the cornerstone to brightening our children's future," said Congressman Filner. "We all have to work hard to provide kids from every economic background with a way to learn, and that is the mission of the Head Start program."

The Head Start program provides education for children. This

grant will pay teachers' salaries, buy educational materials, and fund after-school activities, Jose Lopez, executive Director of Region IX Head Start program said. "We are grateful for this money. You can never get enough help for teaching kids. Our particular program serves over 650 kids throughout Imperial Valley. We would like to extend thanks to Congressman Filner for supporting us since our organization began in 1985."

Congressman Filner, who was a professor at San Diego State for over 20 years, said "I am happy to give my support to any organization whose goal is helping our children."